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MARCH 5, 2023 BY RONNIE

Little Pushback On Efforts To Criminalize “Residential School ‘Denialism’”

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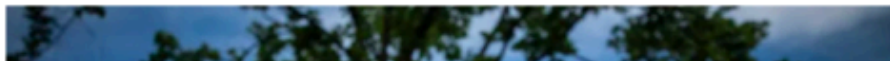
NDP MP calls for hate speech law to combat residential school 'denialism'



Crown-Indigenous Relations Minister Marc Miller interested in reviewing proposed bill



[Olivia Stefanovich](#) · CBC News · Posted: Feb 18, 2023 1:00 AM PST | Last Updated: February 18



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LEAH GAZAN



OVERVIEW

Political Affiliation:
NDP

Constituency:
Winnipeg Centre

Province / Territory:
Manitoba

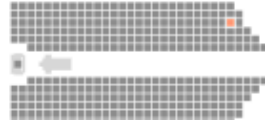
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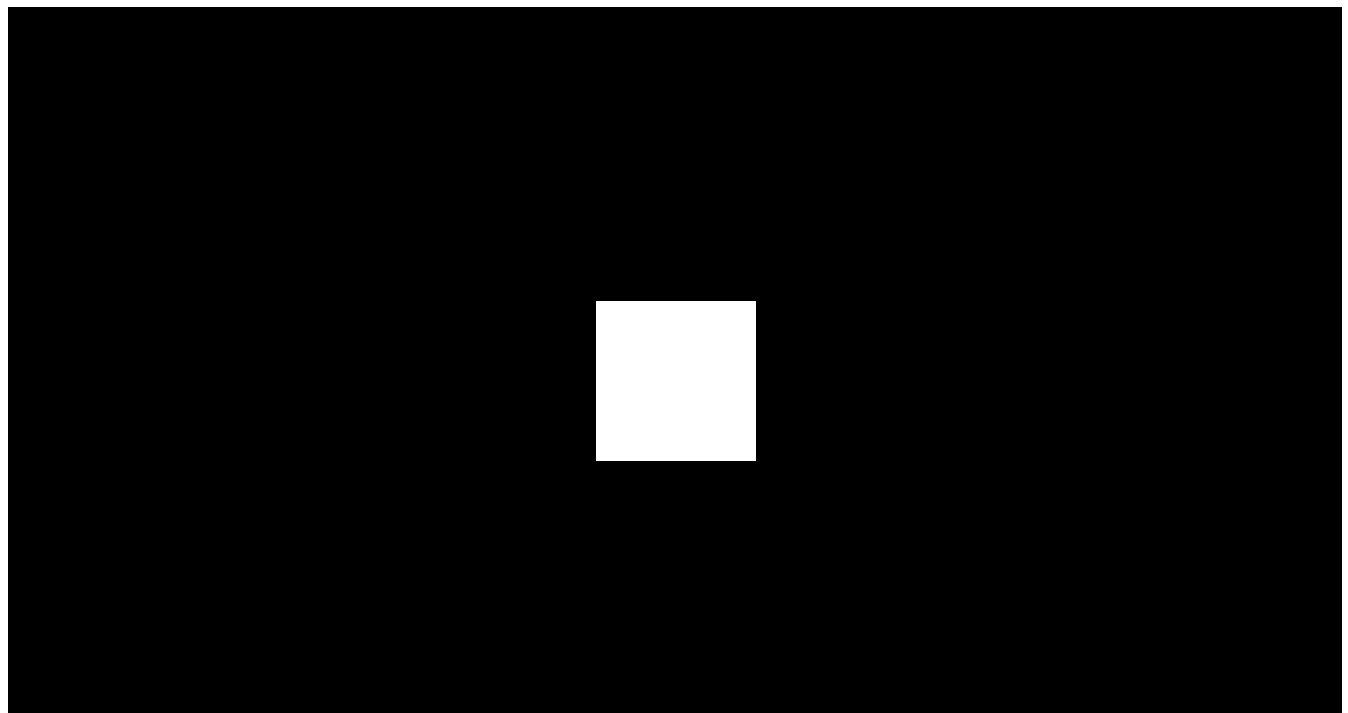
EXPENDITURES REPORT

For more information on the expenditures incurred by members in the discharge of their parliamentary functions, see the [Summary of Expenditures](#) for Members.

SEAT IN THE HOUSE

See where the member sits in the House of Commons chamber.





00:00

00:56

This was announced a few weeks back, and it would have been worth watching to any of the free speech warriors in power challenge this proposal. But that doesn't seem to be the case.

Last Fall, Winnipeg Member of Parliament Leah Gazan (N.D.P.) pushed a Motion to formally recognize what happened at Residential Schools as a “genocide”. There was no opposition to the Motion, and it appeared to be coordinated between all parties.

However, that apparently wasn't enough. Now, Gazan is interested in advancing a Bill to make it a hate crime to deny the genocide in the declaration that she helped advance. Presumably this would impact the Human Rights Code of Canada, but could also be applied to the Criminal Code.

NDP MP Leah Gazan, who got the House of Commons last October to unanimously recognize that genocide occurred at residential schools, ***now wants to take the issue a step further by drafting legislation to outlaw attempts to deny that genocide*** and make false assertions about residential schools.

"Denying genocide is a form of hate speech," said Gazan, who represents the riding of Winnipeg Centre.

"That kind of speech is violent and re-traumatizes those who attended residential school."

Gazan's proposal is causing controversy, even among those who want the facts about residential schools widely known. But the Office of ***Crown-Indigenous Relations Minister Marc Miller said he would be interested in reviewing the proposed legislation.***

"Residential school ***denialism attempts to hide the horrors*** that took place in these institutions," Miller's office told CBC News.

This of course flies in the face of the maxim that the best way to counter bad speech is with better speech. It's unclear whether any such Bill would lead to criminal charges and/or prison sentences for people who violate it.

Gazan's other legislative efforts include Bill C-223, a guaranteed living income, or U.B.I. She has twice pushed Bill C-232, to create a climate emergency action framework". She also supports creating a separate notification system for missing Indigenous women. She has also spoken out in favour of decriminalizing sex work (a.k.a. prostitution).

Of course, the precedent for criminalizing "denialism" in Canada has already been set. Kevin Waugh of Manitoba introduced Bill C-250, which would have put Holocaust deniers in prison for up to 2 years.

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SENATE HOUSE OF COMMONS

LEGISinfo

Search by number (e.g. C-5, S-214), sponsor, title or keyword

Overview Bills Legislation at a glance Help

C-250 44th Parliament, 1st session
November 22, 2021, to present

An Act to amend the Criminal Code (prohibition – promotion of antisemitism)

Bill type
Private Member's Bill

Sponsor
Kevin Waugh (Saskatoon–Grasswood)

Text of the bill

Summary

Current status
At second reading in the House of Commons

Latest activity
Placed in the Order of Precedence on February 9, 2022 (House of Commons)

Progress Details About

Far from being shocked by this, the Conservative Party of Canada celebrated efforts by one of their M.P.s to criminalize discussion on a controversial topic. Waugh brought Private Member's Bill C-250, to do just that. It was ultimately abandoned when near identical provisions were put into Bill C-19, an omnibus budget Bill.

As such, it isn't really a surprise that the “Official Opposition” isn't pushing back on efforts to ban denialism of Residential Schools. But will any such legislation actually pass? Who knows?

It's also uncertain to what degree disagreement would be permitted. It's not specified whether outright denial would be required to constitute hate speech, or just questioning details within.

- (1) [https://www.ourcommons.ca/Members/en/Leah-Gazan\(87121\)](https://www.ourcommons.ca/Members/en/Leah-Gazan(87121))
- (2) <https://twitter.com/LeahGazan/status/1585726302044229632>
- (3) <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/should-residential-school-denialism-declared-hate-speech-1.6744100>
- (4) <https://twitter.com/CityNewsTO/status/1628425241717538816>
- (6) <https://toronto.citynews.ca/2023/02/22/red-dress-alert-for-missing-indigenous-women/>
- (7) <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/house-motion-recognize-genocide-1.6632450>
- (8) <https://www.parl.ca/legisinfo/en/bill/44-1/c-223>
- (9) <https://www.parl.ca/legisinfo/en/bill/43-1/c-232>
- (10) <https://www.parl.ca/legisinfo/en/bill/43-2/c-232>
- (11) <https://twitter.com/LeahGazan/status/1630956370244542464>

HOLOCAUST DENIAL PUNISHABLE BY PRISON TIME:

- (1) <https://www.parl.ca/legisinfo/en/bills>
- (2) <https://www.parl.ca/legisinfo/en/bill/44-1/c-19>
- (3) <https://www.parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/44-1/bill/C-19/third-reading>
- (4) <https://www.parl.ca/legisinfo/en/bill/44-1/c-250>
- (5) [https://www.ourcommons.ca/Members/en/kevin-waugh\(89084\)](https://www.ourcommons.ca/Members/en/kevin-waugh(89084))
- (6) <https://lobbycanada.gc.ca/app/secure/ocl/lrs/do/cmmLgPblcVw?comlogId=521753>
- (7) <https://lobbycanada.gc.ca/app/secure/ocl/lrs/do/vwRg?cno=111&regId=917368&blnk=1>
- (8) <https://twitter.com/Paulatics/status/1537078472820006915>
- (9) <https://sencanada.ca/en/senators/simons-paula/interventions/581135/47#hID>
- (10) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7iNiV2uAsQg&feature=youtu.be>

 **CANADA, CANADIAN BILLS, FREE SPEECH, HUMAN RIGHTS, IDENTITY/RELIGION, INDIGENOUS**

3 Replies to "Little Pushback On Efforts To Criminalize "Residential School 'Denialism'"

**blossom5551****MARCH 5, 2023 AT 8:24 PM**

This is absolutely dangerous and irresponsible and becoming more china esh. This is lunacy and this person is not fit to be in the position she is by making such dangerous proposal as to criminalize any discussion, debate, questioning of a given narrative. WE DON'T NEED NOR WANT THOUGHT POLICE. WHERE DOES IT END? VERY DANGEROUS ABUSE OF THEIR ROLE. THE PEOPLE SHOULD DEMAND THIS INCOMPETENT OPPRESSOR TIN-POT DICTATOR STEPS DOWN

**Dane****MARCH 6, 2023 AT 6:42 AM**

I wonder if citing historical reports such as GG Bagot's 1845 commission report in support of a "denialist" position is "denialism"? If so, does that mean Bagot's report is wiped from the

archives? If so, what about all the land claim court decisions based on Bagot?

For more on the Bagot Commission:

<https://www.eurocanadians.ca/2022/06/a-tale-of-two-commissions-truth-and-reconciliation-commission-2015-versus-the-bagot-commission-report-of-1845.html>



graceplacewellnessblog1

MARCH 6, 2023 AT 8:28 AM

What politicians are trying to tell Canadians is that the government, and the government alone, decides what rights we have and don't have, and when we can exercise them. That ultimately, is the message to all of us.